

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, VS

SUBJECT: AMCIT ELMER HEUBECK IN SAIGON

REF: BANGKOK 18529

1. FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS HAS ASKED ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FOR ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT HAVE ON WHEREABOUTS OF ELMER KERRY HEUBECK. HEUBECK WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IN SAIGON AT TIME OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER, AND INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS REPORTED IN EARLY MAY THAT HE WAS IN SAIGON AND PHYSICALLY WELL AT TIME OF THEIR REPORT. HEUBECK HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EMPLOYED BY CARE, UNTIL NOVEMBER 1973, AND IN MARCH 1974 MARRIED A VIETNAMESE WITH A TEN-YEAR OLD SON. ACCORDING TO FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS, HEUBECK MAY CURRENTLY BE EMPLOYED AS A FREE LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CHECKING WITH ANY RECENT RETURNEES FROM SAIGON WHO MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION ON HEUBECK, INCLUDING UPI SAIGON BUREAU CHIEF ALAN DAWSON.

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3. FYI. HEUBECK (WHO NORMALLY USES KERRY AS FIRST NAME)
IS MARRIED TO SISTER OF VIETNAMESE WIFE OF PAUL STRUHARIK,
USAID PROVREP CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT MARCH 10.
MRS. STRUHARIK (FIRST NAME H'LUM) HAD LEFT VIET-NAM
BEFORE PAUL'S CAPTURE AND PRESENTLY RESIDES WITH HIS

PARENTS IN OHIO. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT KERRY STAYED
IN VIET-NAM TO TRY TO BRING OUT HIS WIFE AND OTHER
DEPENDENTS. FROM RECENT REPORTS WE UNDERSTAND SAIGON
AUTHORITIES ARE REFUSING TO PERMIT VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS
TO DEPART, EVEN IF THEY HAVE FOREIGN NATIONALITY
(E.G., FRENCH, U.S.) AND ARE ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN
SPOUSES. WE UNDERSTAND FROM RED CROSS THIS IS PART
OF KERRY'S PROBLEM, ALONG WITH RECENTLY REPORTED PRG
REFUSAL (REFTEL) TO ALLOW ANY AMCITS TO LEAVE SVN.
END FYI. KISSINGER

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